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13 NOVEMBER 1989
H E PRESIDENT ZAIN AL ABEDIN BEN ALI

WHEN YOU TOOK OVER POWER IN TUNISIA MORE THAN TWO YEARS AGO, THERE WERE GREAT EXPECTATIONS THAT YOU WOULD CORRECT THE FOLLIES OF BOURGUIBA WHICH STEMMED FROM HIS JAUNDICED VIEW OF ISLAM. HOWEVER, YOUR STATEMENT SEPARATING RELIGION AND POLITICS AND THE BANNING OF THE ISLAMIC PARTY HAVE GREATLY DISAPPOINTED AND ANGERED MUSLIMS EVERYWHERE.

YOU DO NOT SEEM TO BE AWARE OF THE WINDS OF CHANGE BLOWING EVERYWHERE ESPECIALLY IN THE MAGHREB. IN NEIGHBOURING ALGERIA THE GOVERNMENT SAW THE LIGHT AND HAS RECOGNISED THE ISLAMIC PARTY. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT YOUR DECISION NOT TO ALLOW THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ISLAMIC PARTY IN TUNISIA WILL NOT STOP THE TIDE OF THE ISLAMIC MOVEMENT FROM OVERWHELMING
ALL OPPOSITION TO IT, WHICH WILL SURELY CRUMBLE LIKE THE BERLIN WALL.

THE ISLAMIC COUNCIL HOPES THAT YOU APPRECIATE WHAT ISLAM STANDS FOR AND WILL ACT IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS VALUES AND TEACHINGS.

SALEM AZZAM
SECRETARY GENERAL
ISLAMIC COUNCIL

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